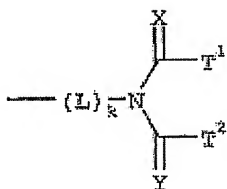


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

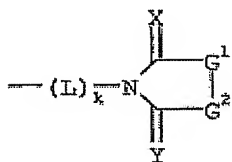
1. (Previously Presented) A polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit wherein the H atom of the hydroxy group of the phenolic monomeric unit is replaced by a N-imide group Q having the structure



wherein L is a linking group, wherein k is 0 or 1, wherein L is covalently bound to the O atom of the polymer when k is 1, or wherein the N atom of the N-imide group is covalently bound to the O atom of the polymer when k is 0, wherein X or Y are independently selected from O or S, and wherein T¹ and T² represent a terminal group.

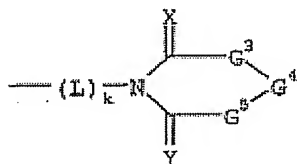
2. (Original) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the terminal groups T¹ and T² are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein T¹ and T² together with the N-imide group represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure, or wherein T¹ and T² represent the following structures -L¹-R¹ and -L²-R², wherein L¹ and L² represent independently a linking group, wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -CN, or -NO₂, or therein two groups selected from each L¹, L², R¹ and R² together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

3. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



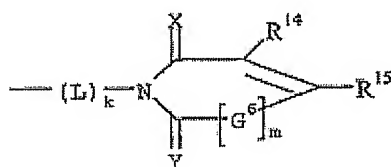
wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^3 or CR^4R^5 , with the limitation that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is O and that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is NR^3 , wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^3-R^6$, wherein L^3 is a linking group, wherein R^3 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and L^3 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

4. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



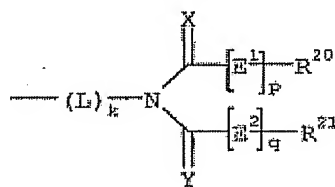
wherein G^3 to G^5 are independently selected from O, S, NR^7 or CR^8R^9 , with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G^3 to G^5 , is CR^8R^9 and that two neighboring groups, selected from G^3 to G^5 , are not represented by O and S, by O and NR^7 , by S and NR^7 or by O and O, or wherein G^4 is a linking group, wherein R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^4-L^{10}$, wherein L^4 is a linking group, wherein R^7 and R^{10} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, ~~heteroaryl~~, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and L^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

5. (Previously Presented) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



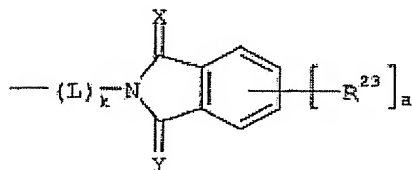
wherein G^6 is a group selected from O, S, NR^{11} or $CR^{12}R^{13}$, wherein m is 0 or 1, wherein R^{12} to R^{15} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^5-R^{16}$, wherein L^5 is a linking group, wherein R^{11} and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} and L^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

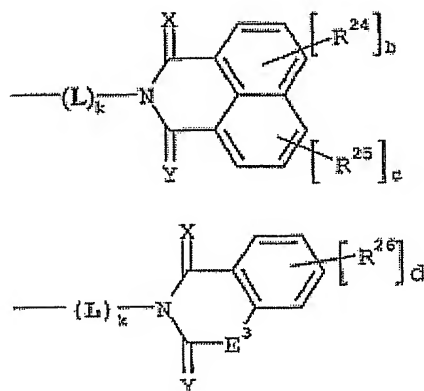
6. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein E^1 and E^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^{17} or $CR^{18}R^{19}$, wherein p and q are independently 0 or 1, wherein R^{18} to R^{21} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^6-R^{22}$, wherein L^6 is a linking group, wherein R^{17} and R^{22} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

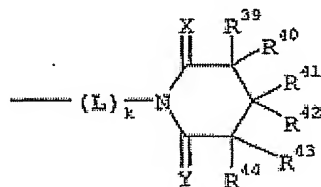
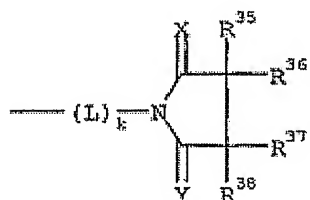
7. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:





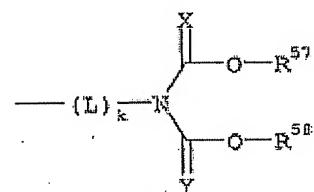
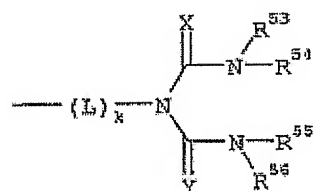
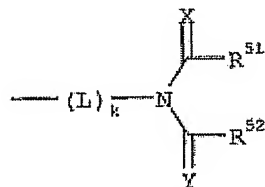
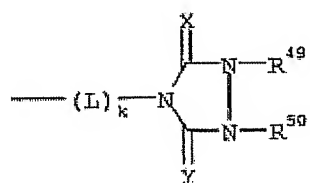
wherein each R^{23} to R^{26} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, $-\text{SO}_2-\text{NH}-R^{27}$, $-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2-R^{30}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{27}-R^{28}$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-\text{CO}-R^{30}$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{28}-R^{29}$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-\text{CS}-\text{NR}^{28}-R^{29}$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-\text{CO}-\text{O}-R^{28}$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{27}-R^{28}$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-R^{30}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-R^{27}$, $-\text{CO}-R^{27}$, $-\text{SO}_3-R^{27}$, $-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2-R^{30}$, $-\text{SO}_2-R^{27}$, $-\text{SO}-R^{30}$, $-\text{P}(=\text{O})(-\text{O}-R^{27})(-\text{O}-R^{28})$, $-\text{O}-\text{P}(=\text{O})(-\text{O}-R^{27})(-\text{O}-R^{28})$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-R^{28}$, $-\text{O}-R^{27}$, $-\text{S}-R^{27}$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{N}(-\text{CO}-R^{27})(-\text{CO}-R^{28})$, $-\text{N}$ -phthalimidyl, $-\text{M}-\text{N}$ -phthalimidyl, or $-\text{M}-R^{27}$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^{27} to R^{29} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R^{30} is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein a and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, wherein E^3 is selected from O, S, NR^{31} or $\text{CR}^{32}\text{R}^{33}$, wherein R^{32} and R^{33} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or $-\text{L}^7-\text{R}^{34}$, wherein L^7 is a linking group, wherein R^{31} and R^{34} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

8. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



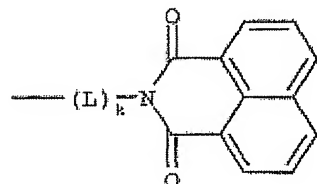
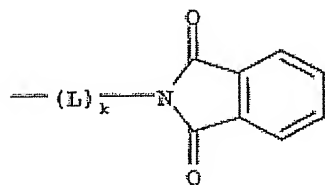
wherein R^{35} to R^{44} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, $-\text{SO}_2-\text{NH}-R^{45}$, $-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2-R^{48}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{45}-R^{46}$, $-\text{NR}^{45}-\text{CO}-R^{48}$, $-\text{NR}^{45}-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{46}-R^{47}$, $-\text{NR}^{45}-\text{CS}-\text{NR}^{46}-R^{47}$, $-\text{NR}^{45}-\text{CO}-\text{O}-R^{46}$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{45}-R^{46}$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-R^{48}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-R^{45}$, $-\text{CO}-R^{45}$, $-\text{SO}_3-R^{45}$, $-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2-R^{48}$, $-\text{SO}_2-R^{45}$, $-\text{SO}-R^{48}$, $-\text{P}(=\text{O})(\text{O}-R^{45})(\text{O}-R^{46})$, $-\text{O}-\text{P}(=\text{O})(\text{O}-R^{45})(\text{O}-R^{46})$, $-\text{NR}^{45}-R^{46}$, $-\text{O}-R^{45}$, $-\text{S}-R^{45}$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{N}(\text{CO}-R^{45})(\text{CO}-R^{46})$, $-\text{N-phthalimidyl}$, $-\text{M-N-phthalimidyl}$, or $-\text{M}-R^{45}$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^{45} to R^{47} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, and wherein R^{48} is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

9. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



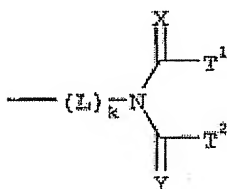
wherein R^{49} to R^{56} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, and wherein R^{57} and R^{58} are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

10. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



11. (Previously Presented) A polymer according to claim 1, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

12. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support having a hydrophilic surface and an oleophilic coating provided on the hydrophilic surface, said coating comprising an infrared light absorbing agent and a polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit wherein the H atom of the hydroxy group of the phenolic monomeric unit is replaced by a N-imide group Q having the structure



wherein L is a linking group, wherein k is 0 or 1, wherein L is covalently bound to the O atom of the polymer when k is 1, or wherein the N atom of the N-imide group is covalently bound to the O atom of the polymer when k is 0, wherein X or Y are independently selected from O or S, and wherein T¹ and T² represent a terminal group.

13. (Original) A lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

14. (Previously Presented) A lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 13, wherein said dissolution inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of an organic compound which comprises at least one aromatic group and a hydrogen bonding site,

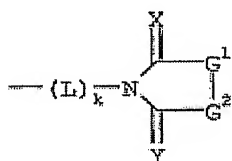
a polymer or surfactant comprising siloxane or perfluoroalkyl units, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brønsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

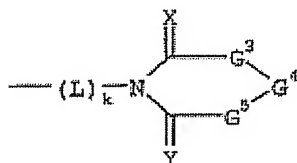
17. (Canceled)

18. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^3 or CR^4R^5 , with the limitation that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is O and that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is NR^3 , wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^3-R^6$, wherein L^3 is a linking group, wherein R^3 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and L^3 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

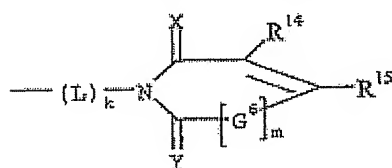
19. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein G^3 to G^5 are independently selected from O, S, NR^7 or CR^8R^9 , with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G^3 to G^5 , is CR^8R^9 and that two neighbouring groups, selected from G^3 to G^5 , are not represented by O and S, by O and NR^7 , by S and NR^7 or by O and O, or wherein G^4 is a linking group, wherein R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl,

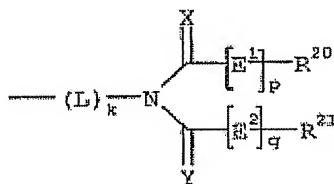
heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^4-L^{10}$, wherein L^4 is a linking group, wherein R^7 and R^{10} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, ~~heteroaralkyl~~, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and L^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

20. (Previously Presented) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



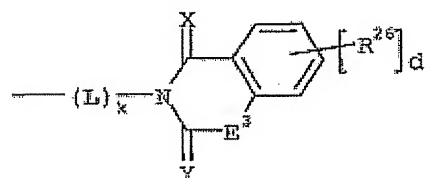
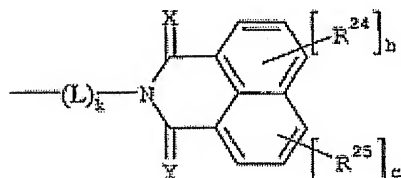
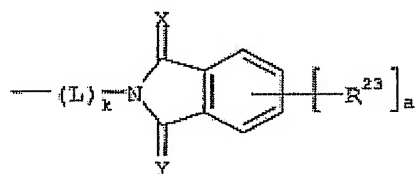
wherein G^6 is a group selected from O, S, NR^{11} or $CR^{12}R^{13}$, wherein m is 0 or 1, wherein R^{12} to R^{15} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^5-R^{16}$, wherein L^5 is a linking group, wherein R^{11} and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} and L^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

21. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



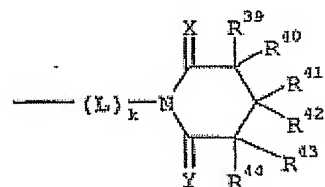
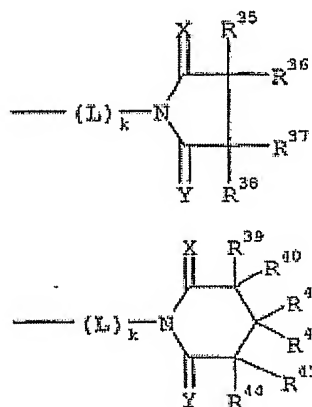
wherein E^1 and E^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^{17} or $CR^{18}R^{19}$, wherein p and q are independently 0 or 1, wherein R^{18} to R^{21} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^6-R^{22}$, wherein L^6 is a linking group, wherein R^{17} and R^{22} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

22. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



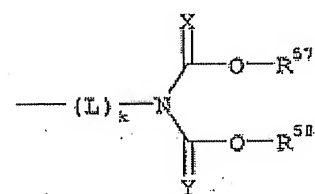
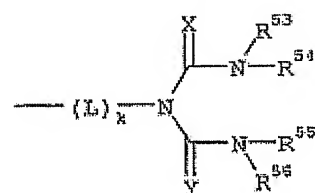
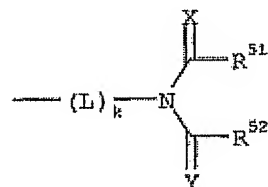
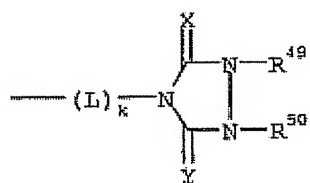
wherein each R^{23} to R^{26} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, $-\text{SO}_2-\text{NH}-R^{27}$, $-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2-R^{30}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{27}-R^{28}$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-\text{CO}-R^{30}$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{28}-R^{29}$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-\text{CS}-\text{NR}^{28}-R^{29}$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-\text{CO}-\text{O}-R^{28}$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{27}-R^{28}$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-R^{30}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-R^{27}$, $-\text{CO}-R^{27}$, $-\text{SO}_3-R^{27}$, $-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2-R^{30}$, $-\text{SO}_2-R^{27}$, $-\text{SO}-R^{30}$, $-\text{P}(=\text{O})(-\text{O}-R^{27})(-\text{O}-R^{28})$, $-\text{O}-\text{P}(=\text{O})(-\text{O}-R^{27})(-\text{O}-R^{28})$, $-\text{NR}^{27}-R^{28}$, $-\text{O}-R^{27}$, $-\text{S}-R^{27}$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{N}(-\text{CO}-R^{27})(-\text{CO}-R^{28})$, $-\text{N}$ -phthalimidyl, $-\text{M}$ - N -phthalimidyl, or $-\text{M}-R^{27}$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^{27} to R^{29} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R^{30} is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein a and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, wherein E^3 is selected from O, S, NR^{31} or $\text{CR}^{32}\text{R}^{33}$, wherein R^{32} and R^{33} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or $-\text{L}^7-\text{R}^{34}$, wherein L^7 is a linking group, wherein R^{31} and R^{34} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

23. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



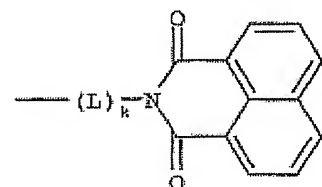
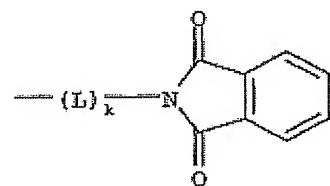
wherein R³⁵ to R⁴⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -SO₂-NH-R⁴⁵, -NH-SO₂-R⁴⁸, -CO-NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -NR⁴⁵-CO-R⁴⁸, -NR⁴⁵-CO-NR⁴⁶-R⁴⁷, -NR⁴⁵-CS-NR⁴⁶-R⁴⁷, -NR⁴⁵-CO-O-R⁴⁶, -O-CO-NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -O-CO-R⁴⁸, -CO-O-R⁴⁵, -CO-R⁴⁵, -SO₃-R⁴⁵, -O-SO₂-R⁴⁸, -SO₂-R⁴⁵, -SO-R⁴⁸, -P(=O)(O-R⁴⁵)(-O-R⁴⁶), -O-P(=O)(-O-R⁴⁵)(-O-R⁴⁶), -NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -O-R⁴⁵, -S-R⁴⁵, -CN, -N(-CO-R⁴⁵)(-CO-R⁴⁶), -N-phthalimidyl, -M-N-phthalimidyl, or -M-R⁴⁵, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R⁴⁵ to R⁴⁷ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R⁴⁸ is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

24. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



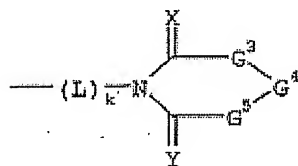
wherein R^{49} to R^{56} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, and wherein R^{57} and R^{58} are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

25. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



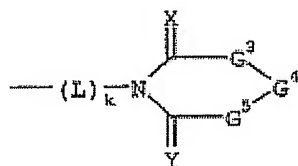
26. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the terminal groups T^1 and T^2 are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein T^1 and T^2 together with the N-imide group represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure, or wherein T^1 and T^2 represent the following structures $-L^1-R^1$ and $-L^2-R^2$, wherein L^1 and L^2 represent independently a linking group, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, $-CN$, or $-NO_2$, or therein two groups selected from each L^1 , L^2 , R^1 and R^2 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

27. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



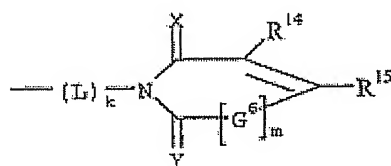
wherein G^3 to G^5 are independently selected from O, S, NR^7 or CR^8R^9 , with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G^3 to G^5 , is CR^8R^9 and that two neighboring groups, selected from G^3 to G^5 , are not represented by O and S, by O and NR^7 , by S and NR^7 or by O and O, or wherein G^4 is a linking group, wherein R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^4-L^{10}$, wherein L^4 is a linking group, wherein R^7 and R^{10} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, ~~heteroaralkyl~~, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and L^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

28. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



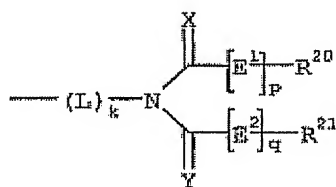
wherein G^3 to G^5 are independently selected from O, S, NR^7 or CR^8R^9 , with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G^3 to G^5 , is CR^8R^9 and that two neighboring groups, selected from G^3 to G^5 , are not represented by O and S, by O and NR^7 , by S and NR^7 or by O and O, or wherein G^4 is a linking group, wherein R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^4-L^{10}$, wherein L^4 is a linking group, wherein R^7 and R^{10} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, ~~heteroaralkyl~~, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and L^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

29. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



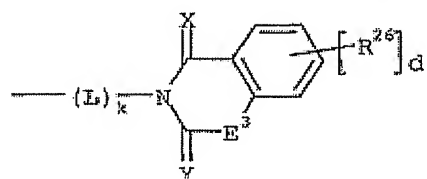
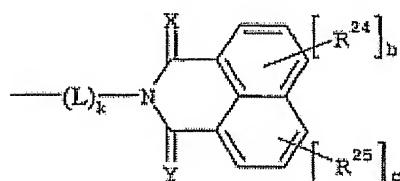
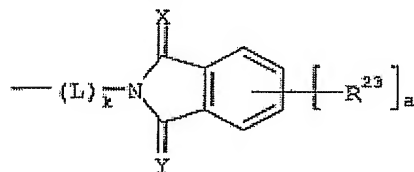
wherein G^6 is a group selected from O, S, NR^{11} or $CR^{12}R^{13}$, wherein m is 0 or 1, wherein R^{12} to R^{15} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^5-R^{16}$, wherein L^5 is a linking group, wherein R^{11} and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} and L^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

30. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein E^1 and E^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^{17} or $CR^{18}R^{19}$, wherein p and q are independently 0 or 1, wherein R^{18} to R^{21} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^6-R^{22}$, wherein L^6 is a linking group, wherein R^{17} and R^{22} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

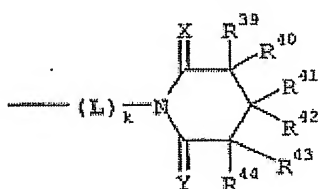
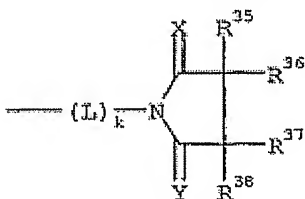
31. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



wherein each R^{23} to R^{26} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, $-SO_2-NH-R^{27}$, $-NH-SO_2-R^{30}$, $-CO-NR^{27}-R^{28}$, $-NR^{27}-CO-R^{30}$, $-NR^{27}-CO-NR^{28}-R^{29}$, $-NR^{27}-CS-NR^{28}-R^{29}$, $-NR^{27}-CO-O-R^{28}$, $-O-CO-NR^{27}-R^{28}$, $-O-CO-R^{30}$, $-CO-O-R^{27}$, $-CO-R^{27}$, $-SO_3-R^{27}$, $-O-SO_2-R^{30}$, $-SO_2-R^{27}$, $-SO-R^{30}$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^{27})(-O-R^{28})$, $-O-P(=O)(-O-R^{27})(-O-R^{28})$, $-NR^{27}-R^{28}$, $-O-R^{27}$, $-S-R^{27}$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-N(-CO-R^{27})(-CO-R^{28})$, $-N$ -phthalimidyl, $-M$ - N -phthalimidyl, or $-M-R^{27}$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group

containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^{27} to R^{29} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R^{30} is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein a and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, wherein E^3 is selected from O, S, NR^{31} or $CR^{32}R^{33}$, wherein R^{32} and R^{33} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or $-L^7-R^{34}$, wherein L^7 is a linking group, wherein R^{31} and R^{34} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

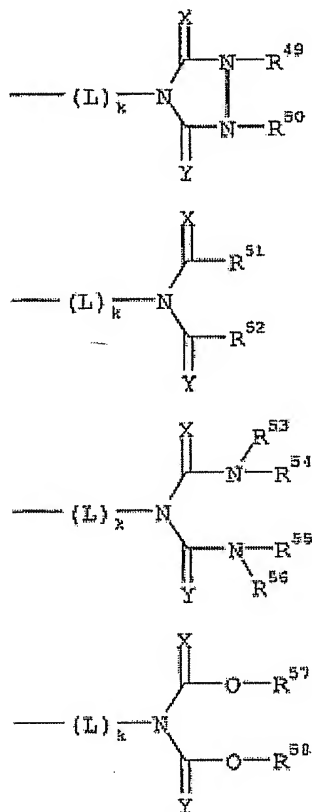
32. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



wherein R^{35} to R^{44} are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, $-SO_2-NH-R^{45}$, $-NH-SO_2-R^{48}$, $-CO-NR^{45}-R^{46}$, $-NR^{45}-CO-R^{48}$, $-NR^{45}-CO-NR^{46}-R^{47}$, $-NR^{45}-CS-NR^{46}-R^{47}$, $-NR^{45}-CO-O-R^{46}$, $-O-CO-NR^{45}-R^{46}$, $-O-CO-R^{48}$, $-CO-O-R^{45}$, $-CO-R^{45}$, $-SO_3-R^{45}$, $-O-SO_2-R^{48}$, $-SO_2-R^{45}$, $-SO-R^{48}$, $-P(=O)(O-R^{45})(O-R^{46})$, $-O-P(=O)(O-R^{45})(O-R^{46})$, $-NR^{45}-R^{46}$, $-O-R^{45}$, $-S-R^{45}$, $-CN$, $-N(-CO-R^{45})(-CO-R^{46})$, $-N$ -phthalimidyl, $-M$ - N -phthalimidyl, or $-M-R^{45}$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^{45} to R^{47} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl

group, wherein R^{48} is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

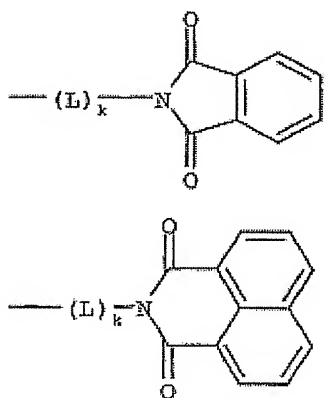
33. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



wherein R^{49} to R^{56} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

and wherein R^{57} and R^{58} are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

34. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



35. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 26, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

36. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 27, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

37. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 28, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

38. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 29, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

39. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 30, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

40. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 31, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

41. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 32, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

42. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 33, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

43. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 34, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

44. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 26, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

45. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 27, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

46. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 28, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

47. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 29, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

48. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 30, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

49. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 31, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

50. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 32, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

51. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 33, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

52. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 34, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.